UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1246
21 February 1991

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-sixth session

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE ENERGY MINISTERS OF THE BALKAN STATES

(Tirana, Albania, 29-30 May 1990)

Note by the secretariat

The attached joint communiqué is being circulated as an official document of the forty-sixth session of the Commission in accordance with the request to that effect contained in the letter to the Executive Secretary of 2 June 1990 from the Permanent Mission of Albania.

2 June 1990

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint communiqué of the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of the Balkan States, held at Tirana from 29 to 30 May 1990, with the recommendation of my Government. The Ministers agreed that the Government of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania should inform the Economic Commission for Europe of the results of the Meeting.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex (joint communiqué) to be circulated as an official document of the forty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Alfred Papuçiu
Chargé d'Affaires of the
Permanent Mission of the
Socialist People's Republic
of Albania

MEETING OF THE ENERGY MINISTERS OF THE BALKAN STATES
(Tirana, 29-30 May 1990)

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

In the framework of the process of Balkan co-operation, the Ministers of Energy of the Balkan States held a meeting in Tirana from 29 to 30 May 1990.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania, Adil Carçani, sent a message of greetings to the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, headed by the Minister, Chairman of the Energy Committee, Nikola Todoriev; the delegation of the Hellenic Republic, headed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology, Georgios Apostolakis; the delegation of Romania, headed by the Minister of Electric Energy, Adrian Georgescu; the delegation of the Republic of Turkey, headed by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Fahrettin Kurt; the delegation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, headed by the Federal Secretary for Energy and Industry, Stevan Santo; and the delegation of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania, headed by the Minister of Industry, Mining and Energy, Dr. Besnik Bekteshi, who was also elected Chairman of the Meeting.

In a constructive spirit of mutual respect, the Ministers of Energy exchanged views on the ways and possibilities of multilateral co-operation among the Balkan States in the field of energy.

Bearing in mind the interest and determination of their countries to strengthen multilateral co-operation, the Ministers stressed the necessity of joint efforts for its further development in the framework of their international obligations.

The Ministers pointed out that the economic progress of the Balkan countries and their industrial potential offer opportunities of deepening and diversifying industrial, technical and scientific co-operation in the energy sector. They recommended the study of the possibilities of expanding bilateral and multilateral co-operation in the field of energy planning and the implementation of energy projects; in the exploitation and utilization of solid fuels of low calorific value; in coal upgrading through utilization of advanced technologies; in the improvement of combustion processes at existing and new plants by means of utilization of up-to-date combustion technologies for solid fuels of low calorific value; in the implementation of advanced oil and gas drilling technologies and in ensuring a high ultimate oil recovery; in the exploitation and utilization of bituminous shales and sands; in the conservation and efficient use of energy; in retrofitting of groups in thermo power stations with a long operation period; in technologies of reducing the emissions of SO_2, NO_x fly ash etc. in flue gases.

The Ministers of Energy noted that their Meeting constituted a contribution to the furthering of multilateral co-operation in the energy sector and of Balkan co-operation as a whole. They laid stress on the need to

agree on concrete measures to utilize the potentials of the Balkan countries for the development of mutual co-operation in the energy field, in harmony with the priorities and interests of each country.

The Ministers expressed their common wish to work towards the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements on the improvement of existing energy services and the establishment of new systems as well as on an optimum utilization of the potential energy resources available in the countries of the region. They recognized the benefit of technical and technological co-operation through the transfer of know-how, exchange of expertise, conferences, seminars, symposia, consultancy services and joint research and development projects, in accordance with the interests, possibilities and legislation in force in each of the countries.

The Meeting highly praised the activity of the Co-ordinating Committee for the development of the interconnection of the electric power transmission systems of the Balkan countries and its contribution to the creation of the preliminary conditions for the interconnection of the electric power systems of the Balkan countries.

Recognizing the importance of joint operation in interconnection, the Ministers agreed to recommend to the relevant electric power authorities to consider the transformation of the existing Committee into a Committee of the electric power systems of the Balkan countries so that, alongside with the investigating activity, it may pursue the realization of the interconnection and create the necessary conditions to increase energy exchanges among them. To this end, a working group of representatives of the electric power systems should meet in the second half of July 1990 in Ohrid to prepare the draft statute of the above-mentioned Committee of the Balkan countries. This draft statute will be considered and possibly endorsed by authorized representatives of the electric power systems of Balkan countries during the next meeting in Ankara.

To accomplish Balkan co-operation in the fields of oil and gas, coal and other energy sources, it was agreed to set up joint groups of specialists for common and/or specific problems in these fields. Also, to ensure close co-operation in relation to the environmental aspect of the energy sector, the Ministers agreed to exchange all relevant information and know-how and to set up joint groups of specialists for energy and its influence on environmental issues.

In order to co-ordinate the activity of these groups, to examine all problems in greater detail and to prepare further multilateral activities in all fields of energy, the Ministers agreed to propose to their Governments that meetings of high officials and experts in the energy field should be held periodically on a rotating basis.

The first meeting will be held in Greece in the second half of 1990.

In view of the depletable character of the energy resources and the growing concern for environmental protection, the Ministers acknowledged the necessity of co-operation and co-ordination of efforts, for research, development and utilization of new and renewable energy resources.

The Ministers agreed that the marketing of primary energy commodities constitutes an important field for the strengthening of economic co-operation and development of trade relations among the Balkan countries.

They underlined the significance of creating and developing the relevant energy infrastructure in each Balkan country for the increase of co-operation and the rational exploitation of the energy resources and systems.

The Ministers agreed that the Government of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania inform the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe of the results of this Meeting.

The Ministers expressed their appraisal that such meetings serve the further promotion of Balkan co-operation in the field of energy. To this end, it was agreed to propose to their Governments that the meetings of the Energy Ministers of the Balkan countries be held periodically on a rotating basis. The next meeting will be held in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in 1992.

The Meeting proceeded in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the excellent organization of the Meeting as well as for the warm hospitality extended to them by the Albanian Government.

Tirana, 30 May 1990